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THE SPIRIT

By Will Eisner

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Spirit...
Blinded!



Will Eisner '99



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MEN HONOR THEIR
AGREEMENTS...

A CONTRACT WITH GOD

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BY
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THE SPIRIT

By Will Eisner

Editor-in-Chief: WILL EISNER • Editor & Publisher: DENIS KITCHEN • Assistant Editor: CAT YRONWODE

Page 2... **SPIRIT CHECKLIST.** At last, a comprehensive guide to all the Spirit stories. To be continued in future issues.

Page 4... **LETTERS.**

Those readers who have been following The Spirit's adventures for some time now will recall that after his "Showdown With the Octopus" (reprinted way back in Warren's Spirit No.6 and more recently in The Comics Journal No.46), Our Hero was left battered, bruised and blinded by his arch-foe. Didja ever wonder what happened next? Well, now it can be told! Read on...

Page 5... **BLIND.** Bugg-Eye, Little Snead, Murder McCoy and Rubber-Lips plan to bilk G.I.s in a phony apartment scheme and leave Dolan a pulpy mess. And the sightless Spirit is helpless to act. Or is he?

Page 12... **A KILLER AT LARGE.** A small mutt stands accused of killing the new dog catcher. But Ebony and The Spirit follow the trail elsewhere.

Page 19... **INTO THE LIGHT.** Things continue to look dark. The Spirit, still blind, is kidnaped by a deadly nemesis: Carrion.

Page 26... **LIFE ON ANOTHER PLANET, Chapter Four.** Multi-national Corporation, a bankrupt African nation, and the Star People cult combine to exploit the signals from space, forcing Bludd into an unexpected alliance. *Sixteen more pages of brand new material from Will Eisner!*

Page 42... **PERFECT CRIME.** A paranoid hood named Baxter, though well-prepared, is no match for a bedridden Spirit.

Page 49... **JAM: Eisner's Vault.** This collaboration between Will Eisner and Denis Kitchen offers readers an explanation for the mix-up that caused Chapter 3 of the Wally Wood Spirit series to run in the last issue of this magazine instead of Chapter 2.

Page 50... **OUTER SPACE.** This is the *real* Chapter 2 of the Wally Wood serial. See the letters page and jam page for more details. Go back to Spirit No.21 to read the next chapter. Whew!



AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

As of this issue, THE SPIRIT magazine intends to take itself much more seriously as a repository of classic and otherwise unobtainable comic book art. In the past, particularly when Warren was publishing it, many multi-part stories were run in disjointed form or presented with crucial chapters missing, much to the consternation of continuity-minded fans. In the future we will be making every attempt to keep such multi-part stories intact — even if it means re-printing an isolated episode which was run out of context by Warren. Don't worry, this doesn't mean that we've run out of stories and will have to resort to repetition — in fact, just the opposite is true! We've gotten a lot of requests from readers to run reprints of some of the really rare pre-war SPIRIT stories but up until now we've had to reluctantly refuse because the original artwork for these was lost a long time ago and reproducing them from halftones of old and often out of register newspaper sections would be both expensive and not up to the level of quality we want to maintain. However, a most remarkable and unexpected development has just come along and changed all of that — believe it or not, a long-forgotten stash of clean reproducible PHOTOSTATS of some of the very best of Will Eisner's pre-war SPIRIT artwork has just been discovered!! The full story of how associate editor cat yronwode, following an anonymous tip from a man purporting to be Police Commissioner Eustace P. Dolan (but who was obviously an imposter), unearthed these lost proofs in an empty grave in Central City's Wildwood Cemetery is a tale for another day. Suffice it to say we are thrilled to announce that NEXT ISSUE we will be featuring THE ORIGIN OF SILK SATIN in a never-before-reprinted story from 1941, in addition to our regular selection of Eisner's post-war SPIRIT classics, Wood's "Outer Space," chapter 5 of "Life on Another Planet" and part 2 of The SPIRIT Checklist. See you then!

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THE SPIRIT CHECKLIST

PART ONE

BY CATHERINE RONWODE

ABBREVIATIONS OF COMICS AND MAGAZINES							
CM	Comic Media	IW/P	IW Plastic Man	SB	Spirit Bag		
E	Eerie	K	Kitchen Sink Spirit	SCB	Spirit Coloring Book		
FH	Fiction House Spirit	M	Modern Comics	SM	Spiritman		
H	Harvey Spirit	P	Police Comics	TCM	3 Comics Magazine		
IW/S	IW/Super Spirit	Q	Quality/Vital Spirit	W	Warren Spirit		

Sections 1 through 100: Scripts, Pencils and Inks by Will Eisner, except Section 31: Script by Will Eisner, Art by Will Eisner and Bob Powell. Lettering on Sections 1 through 3: Zoltan Szenics [?], Sections 4 through 100: Sam Rosen. Colouring: Joe Kubert.

SECTIONS 1 THROUGH 32 – SEVEN PAGE STORIES

1. 6/2/40. ("The Origin of the Spirit") P 11 (C), SB 1/1 (B&W HT)
2. 6/9/40. ("The Return of Dr. Cobra") SB 1/2 (B&W HT)
3. 6/16/40. ("The Black Queen") P 12 (C), SB 1/3 (B&W HT)
4. 6/23/40. "Voodoo in Manhattan" Bootleg Bag (B&W HT)
5. 6/30/40. ("Johnny Marston") P 13 (C), SB 1/4 (B&W HT)
6. 7/7/40. ("The Black Queen's Army") SB 1/5 (B&W HT)
7. 7/14/40. ("Mr. Midnight") P 15 (C), SB 1/6 (B&W HT)
8. 7/21/40. ("Eldas Thayer") P 14 (C), SB 1/7 (B&W HT)
9. 7/28/40. "Palyachi, the Killer Clown" P 16 (C), SB 1/8 (B&W HT)
10. 8/4/40. ("The Death Dolls") P 26 (C), SB 1/9 (B&W HT)
11. 8/11/40. ("The Kidnapping of Daisy Kay") SB 1/10 (B&W HT)
12. 8/18/40. ("The Merger Boys") P 22 (C), SB 2/1 (B&W HT)
13. 8/25/40. ("The Orphans") P 17 (C), SB 2/2 (B&W HT)
14. 9/1/40. ("Orang the Ape-Man") SB 2/3 (B&W HT)
15. 9/8/40. "The Return of Orang, the Ape That Is Human!" SB 2/4 (B&W HT)
16. 9/15/40. ("Ebony's X-Ray Eyes") P 23 (C), SB 2/5 (B&W HT)
17. 9/22/40. ("Gang Warfare") P 18 (C), SB 2/6 (B&W HT)
18. 9/29/40. ("Oriental Agents") P 21 (C), SB 2/7 (B&W HT)
19. 10/6/40. "The Master Mind Strikes" SB 2/8 (B&W HT)
20. 10/13/40. "The Spirit! Who Is He?" SB 2/9 (B&W HT)
21. 10/20/40. ("Ogre Goran") P 20 (C), SB 2/10 (B&W HT)
22. 10/27/40. "Conscription Bill Signed" SB 3/1 (B&W HT)
23. 11/3/40. "The Manly Art of Self Defense" SB 3/2 (B&W HT)
24. 11/10/40. ("The Kiss of Death") SB 3/3 (B&W HT)
25. 11/17/40. ("Dr. Prince Von Kalm") P 25 (C), SB 3/4 (B&W HT)
26. 11/24/40. ("The Kidnapping of Ebony") P 24 (C), SB 3/5 (B&W HT)
27. 12/1/40. ("The Prom") SB 3/6 (B&W Proof), SCB (B&W Proof; splash page only)
28. 12/8/40. ("The Haunted House") P 19 (C), SB 3/7 (B&W Proof) Comic Reader 170 (B&W Proof, splash, etc.)
29. 12/15/40. ("Slim Pickens") SB 3/8 (B&W HT)
30. 12/22/40. ("The Christmas Spirit of 1940: Black Henry and Simple Simon") SB 3/9 (B&W HT)
31. 12/29/40. ("The Leader") SB 3/10 (B&W Proof)
32. 1/5/41. ("The Black Bow") SB 4/1 (B&W HT), SCB (B&W Proof; splash page only)

SECTIONS 33 THROUGH 218 – EIGHT PAGE STORIES

33. 1/12/41. ("The Silk District Beat") P 29 (C), SB 4/2 (B&W HT)
34. 1/19/41. ("Pancho De Bool & Peppi Tamale") P 39 (C), SB 4/3 (B&W HT)
35. 1/26/41. ("The Conquistadores") SB 4/4 (B&W HT)
36. 2/2/41. ("Davy Jones' Locker") P 38 (C), SB 4/5 (B&W HT)
37. 2/9/41. ("The Substitute Spirits") [refried in 422] P 27 (C), SB 4/6 (B&W HT)
38. 2/16/41. ("Radio Station WLXK") P 28 (C), SB 4/7 (B&W HT)
39. 2/23/41. ("Invasion From Argos") P 40 (C), SB 4/8 (B&W HT)
40. 3/2/41. ("Dead Duck Dolan") P 36 (C), SB 4/9 (B&W HT)
41. 3/9/41. ("Toy Planes") SB 4/10 (B&W HT)
42. 3/16/41. ("Introducing Silk Satin") [refried in 498]
43. 3/23/41. ("Dipsy Doobie") P 31 (C)
44. 3/30/41. ("Captured by the Underworld") P 30 (C)
45. 4/6/41. ("Introducing Scarlett Brown")

46. 4/13/41. ("Croaky Andrews' Perfect Crime") [refried in 345] FH 2 (C; splash page only used as cover, story not reprinted)
47. 4/20/41. ("The S.S. Raven")
48. 4/27/41. "Ellen Dolan Detective Agency"
49. 5/4/41. ("King Kohl, Emperor of the Underworld")
50. 5/11/41. ("A Dull Week") P 37 (C)
51. 5/18/41. ("Marta & the Renaissance Primitive")
52. 5/25/41. ("Thomas Hawkins") P 32 (C)
53. 6/1/41. ("Killer McNobby")
54. 6/8/41. ("5 Passengers In Search of an Author or: The Return of Silk Satin")
55. 6/15/41. ("Dusk & Twilight")
56. 6/22/41. "The Tale of the Dictator's Reform" ("The Hitler Story")
57. 6/29/41. ("The Balkan Ball")
58. 7/6/41. ("Agent 24")
59. 7/13/41. ("Stolen Squad Cars")
60. 7/20/41. ("The Jewel of Death") [partially refried in 509] P 41 (C), The Great Comic Book Heroes "The Spirit in Damascus" (Recoloured)
61. 7/27/41. ("Pink Perkins")
62. 8/3/41. "Wanted Dead or Alive – The Spirit" P 34 (C)
63. 8/10/41. ("The Element of Time")
64. 8/17/41. "The Spirit Am Unfair To His Assistant!!"
65. 8/24/41. ("River Lily")
66. 8/31/41. ("Barton Hartsell")
67. 9/7/41. ("Dorothy Heartburn")
68. 9/14/41. "The Biography of a Big Shot: Joe Frisk" [refried in 499]
69. 9/21/41. ("Gogi the Yogi")
70. 9/28/41. ("Women!")
71. 10/5/41. ("Sphinx & Satin") P 33 (C)
72. 10/12/41. ("The Genius") P 35 (C)
73. 10/19/41. "The Oldest Man in the World"
74. 10/26/41. ("Hallowe'en Dusk")
75. 11/2/41. ("The Confession of Monks Mallon")
76. 11/9/41. ("The Killer Ghost")
77. 11/16/41. ("Eustace the Turkey") [refried in 344]
78. 11/23/41. ("Ellen Dolan, Fullback")
79. 11/30/41. ("Goll Girder")
80. 12/7/41. ("The Last of the Minstrels")
81. 12/14/41. ("Ventro")
82. 12/21/41. "Army Operas No. 1" ("Chuck Magoo") Graphic Gallery 4 (B&W Proof, page 2 only)
83. 12/28/41. "The Christmas Spirit [of 1941]: A Trilogy"
84. 1/4/42. ("Gorilla Gage")
85. 1/11/42. ("Mr. Fly")
86. 1/18/42. ("Blowing Up the Dam")
87. 1/25/42. ("The Ebony White Super-Short-Wave Mechanical Spy")
88. 2/1/42. ("The Devil's Shoes")
89. 2/8/42. ("Gooplectutch & Mickleholler")
90. 2/15/42. ("Madam Minx")
91. 2/22/42. ("The Ghost of Post 13") Panels 1 (B&W LS, splash)
92. 3/1/42. ("Aunt Matilda")
93. 3/8/42. ("Mr. Hush") Panels 1 (B&W HT, splash only)
94. 3/15/42. ("For Mayor: Dolan")
95. 3/22/42. "The Men Whom Time Forgot"
96. 3/29/42. "The Weird Case of Dr. Ebony and Mr. White"
97. 4/5/42. ("Drying Up the Reservoirs")
98. 4/12/42. ("The Return of the S.S. Raven")
99. 4/19/42. ("Hinkey's Gang")
100. 4/26/42. ("The Bloody Fang")

Sections 101 through 128: Scripts, Layouts (plus some Pencils and occasional Inks) by Will Eisner, Finished Art by Lou Fine with various assistants, except for Sections 119, 120, 121 and 125: Scripts by Manly Wade Wellman, Pencils by Lou Fine, Inks by John Belfi. Lettering, Sections 101 through 128: Sam Rosen. Colouring: Quality Staff Artists.

101. 5/3/42. ("Self Portrait") Panels 1 (B&W LS, splash)
102. 5/10/42. "Army Operas No. 2" ("Pvt. O'Toole")
103. 5/17/42. "The Man Who Lost His Face"

ACTION
Mystery
ADVENTURE

DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN THIS CHECKLIST

(“Title”)	My title for an untitled Section.	(B&W HT)	Black & white halftone of original Section.	(C)	Colour; same plates as original.
“Title”	Title or headline on original splash; title given to reprint.	(B&W LS)	Black & white line shot of original Section.	(Recoloured)	Colours different than original.
(Title)	Title given in the post-war “Next Week” box.	(B&W Proof)	Black & white from original or retouched art or photostat.	(Retouched)	Minor changes in artwork.
0/0	Issue no./Story no. [Spirit stories only; others ignored].	(B&W Tones)	Black & white with flat tones.	(Redrawn)	Major changes in artwork.
0 - 0	Issue no. - page no. [only used on titles with page numbers given].	(B&W Wash)	Black & white with wash tones.	(Refried)	Same story, much dialogue same, names may be changed, new art.
		(B&W Zip)	Black & white with zipatone.	(Reprinted)	Same art & story. A Framed reprint has a new framing sequence & some original panels deleted.

104. 5/24/42. (“A Practical Joke”)
 105. 5/31/42. “Army Operas No. 3” (“Cpl. O’Toole”)
 106. 6/7/42. (“The Baby King”)
 107. 6/14/42. (“Sybil, Cecil & Calloous Joe”)
 108. 6/21/42. (“His Majesty King Zenix II”)
 109. 6/28/42. (“Suicide & Saxophones”)
 110. 7/5/42. “Wanted/The Spirit/For Murder”
 111. 7/12/42. (“David De Vere”)
 112. 7/19/42. “A Crime Primer/M-U-R-D-E-R”
 113. 7/26/42. (“The Royal Flush Gang”)
 114. 8/2/42. (“Professor Pinx”) P 42 (C)
 115. 8/9/42. (“Shoplifters & Sodas”) P 43 (Recoloured, due to colourist’s errors in original printing)
 116. 8/16/42. (“The Shadow of Dusk”) Panels 1 (B&W LS, splash)
 117. 8/23/42. (“Espionage in Egypt”) [although this is the only Section signed by Lou Fine (on the last page), it was actually penciled by Will Eisner]
 118. 8/30/42. (“The Return of Scar Cainam”)
 119. 9/6/42. (“Pink Elephants”)
 120. 9/13/42. (“Diana the Huntress”)
 121. 9/20/42. (“Cicero Swunk”)
 122. 9/27/42. (“Rejected”)
 123. 10/4/42. “Death Is My Destiny” (refried in 562)
 124. 10/11/42. (“Ebony Meets Frankenstein”)
 125. 10/18/42. (“Corners, Corners”)
 126. 10/25/42. (“Hallowe’en Spirit of 1942: The Ghost Gang”)
 127. 11/1/42. (“Lucifer T. Mephisto”)
 128. 11/8/42. “A Zombie”

Sections 129 through 168: Scripts by Manly Wade Wellman or Bill Woolfolk, Pencils by Lou Fine, Inks by Quality Comics Staff Artists, including John Belfi, Joe Kubert, Aldo Rubano, Jack Keller, Robin King and Alex Kotzky, except for Sections 133, 136, 137, 152 and 153; Scripts and Layouts by Will Eisner, Pencils by Lou Fine, Inks by Quality Staff, and Section 168: Script and Layout by Will Eisner, Finished Art by Quality Staff. Lettering on Sections 129 through 131: Sam Rosen; Sections 132 through 168: Martin DeMuth. Colouring by Quality Staff.

129. 11/15/42. (“Suicide Balcony”)
 130. 11/22/42. (“The Mock Invasion”)
 131. 11/29/42. “Improve Your Memory in Ten Easy Lessons”
 132. 12/6/42. (“Youth Day”) Graphic Gallery 7 (B&W Proof, page 7 only; erroneously credited to Will Eisner)
 133. 12/13/42. (“The Parole of Tommy Gates”)
 134. 12/20/42. (“Amnesia No. 1”)
 135. 12/27/42. (“Brawler & the Perfesser”)
 136. 1/3/43. (“The Curse of the Ruby”)
 137. 1/10/43. (“The Lady in Black or: The Vashi Pearls”)
 138. 1/17/43. (“Keep Mum On Ship Movements”)
 139. 1/24/43. (“Schoolboy Stuart”)
 140. 1/31/43. (“June 18, 1940”)
 141. 2/7/43. (“The Spirit’s Super Scrappers”)
 142. 2/14/43. (“The Brotherhood of Swivets”)
 143. 2/21/43. (“Automatic Author”)
 144. 2/28/43. (“The Spirit of Spring”)
 145. 3/7/43. (“Class Reunion”) Q 3/4 “Class Reunion” (C)
 146. 3/14/43. (“Byron’s Memoirs”) P 54 (C)
 147. 3/21/43. (“Saul Taylor”)
 148. 3/28/43. (“Andy Horgan”) Q 3/1 “Death Takes Its Toll” (C)
 149. 4/4/43. (“Evil Eye Manders”) Q 1/5 “The Eyes Have It” (C)
 150. 4/11/43. (“The Dollars of 1804”) Q 1/1 “Wanted” (C)
 151. 4/18/43. (“The Grandfather Clock”) Q 1/4 “A Clock Stops” (C)
 152. 4/25/43. “The Last Mile”
 153. 5/2/43. (“Yellow Eyes Janus”) Q 1/6 “Manhunt” (C)
 154. 5/9/43. (“Dr. Plague”)
 155. 5/16/43. (“Policewoman Ellen”) Q 1/3 “Dressed To Kill” (C)
 156. 5/23/43. (“Tony Zacco”) Q 1/2 “Tony Zacco, Public Enemy No. 1” (C)
 157. 5/30/43. “The Spirit Ain’t Fair” P 48 (C)

158. 6/6/43. (“Terrible Terry Gill”) Q 3/5 “Wanted, One Child” (C)
 159. 6/13/43. (“Diamonds On Ice”)
 160. 6/20/43. (“Parrot Puggins”) P 50 (C)
 161. 6/27/43. “Keep Out” P 45 (C)
 162. 7/4/43. (“Marathon Dancers”)
 163. 7/11/43. (“Three Wishes”) P 44 (C)
 164. 7/18/43. (“The House of Darkness”) Q 4/5 (C)
 165. 7/25/43. (“The Spirit Did . . .”) Q 2/1 “Framed” (C)
 166. 8/1/43. (“The Maestro”) Q 3/2 “Music Hath Charms” (C)
 167. 8/8/43. (“Shipyard Sabotage”)
 168. 8/15/43. (“The Last Gang in Rotten Row”) P 55 (C)

Sections 169 through 185: Scripts by Manly Wade Wellman or Bill Woolfolk, Art by Quality Staff Artists, including Robin King and Joe Kubert, Lettering by Martin DeMuth, Colouring by Quality Staff.

169. 8/22/43. (“On the Ferris Wheel”) Q 4/4 (C)
 170. 8/29/43. (“Broadway Lily”) P 52 (C)
 171. 9/5/43. “The Art of Making Love Ardently” G 3/3
 “An Old Beau Returns” (C)
 172. 9/12/43. (“Woman Crooks”)
 173. 9/19/43. (“Killer Sykes”) Q 3/6 “Stormy Weather” (C)
 174. 9/26/43. (“Murder on the Job”) P 53 (C)
 175. 10/3/43. “The Case of the Southpaw Maiden”
 176. 10/10/43. (“Ellen Dolan, Murderess”) Q 2/4 “Reserved — One Electric Chair” (C)
 177. 10/17/43. (“The Magic Drums of the Shonokins”) P 46 (C)
 178. 10/24/43. (“Who Killed Gloria Drake?”) P 51 (C)
 179. 10/31/43. (“Death in the Lion Cage”) Q 2/2 “Circus Daze” (C)
 180. 11/7/43. (“Fronie Pettigrew”) Q 2/6 “Brummagen vs. Pettigrew” (C)
 181. 11/14/43. (“Vance McVane”)
 182. 11/21/43. “On Guard!” Q 2/3 “On Guard, Crime” (C)
 183. 11/28/43. (“The Killer Nurse”) P 47 (C)
 184. 12/5/43. (“The Auction”) Q 4/2 (C)
 185. 12/12/43. (“The Train Wreck”)

Sections 186 through 220: Scripts by Manly Wade Wellman or Bill Woolfolk or Jack Cole [the latter only on those he penciled], Art by Diverse Hands, including Jack Cole and Robin King, Lettering by Martin DeMuth, Colouring by Quality Staff.

186. 12/19/43. (“Druce’s Time Bomb”) Q 2/5 “Death After Death” (C)
 187. 12/26/43. (“Cloak and Coffin”) P 49 (C)
 188. 1/2/44. (“Killer Ketch”) Q 10/5 (C)
 189. 1/9/44. (“Mrs. Sorrel”) Q 10/2 (C)
 190. 1/16/44. (“Ebony’s Inheritance”)
 191. 1/23/44. (“Murder by Magic”)
 192. 1/30/44. (“Circumstantial Evidence”)
 193. 2/6/44. (“Radio Burglars”)
 194. 2/13/44. (“Men O’ War”) Q 11/5 (C)
 195. 2/20/44. (“In the Moorish Section of Central City”) Q 11/4 (C)
 196. 2/27/44. (“Who Killed Sam Wright?”) Q 8/5 (C)
 197. 3/5/44. (“The Charity Ball”) Q 8/4 (C)
 198. 3/12/44. (“Double Eagle”) Q 9/4 (C)
 199. 3/19/44. (“Skelter & Crabb”) Q 10/4 (C)
 200. 3/26/44. (“Torchy Tyler”) SM 2/1 (C)
 201. 4/2/44. (“Who Killed Bob Sydell?”) SM 2/2 (C)
 202. 4/9/44. (“Dead in the Street”)
 203. 4/16/44. (“Suspended Animation”)
 204. 4/23/44. (“Rogoff”) Q 11/2 (C)
 205. 4/30/44. (“The Voodoo of Dr. Peroo”)
 206. 5/7/44. (“John Magby’s Last Will & Testament”) Q 9/2 (C)
 207. 5/14/44. (“Fifi McCoy”) Q 5/4 (C)
 208. 5/21/44. (“Black Marx”) Q 8/1 (C)
 209. 5/28/44. (“Beyond the Grave!”)
 210. 6/4/44. (“Ebony’s Piano Lesson”) Q 5/2 (C)
 211. 6/11/44. (“The Cellini Dagger”) Q 7/1 (C)



LETTERS

WRONG WOOD EPISODE!

I think the cover of your 5th issue [No.21] is the best one of all the issues you've published. The positioning of the logo and the fact that it is smaller than on previous issues helps the effect the cover puts across.

You're still publishing those essays on comic art too, I see. I would much rather see some other text piece in the magazine. Eisner should write about what comics were like in the 40's or behind-the-scenes stuff. Anything but those

boring essays.

And someone doesn't know the original dates of the Wally Wood Spirits. In issue No.20 you say the Wood tale was originally published on August 3, 1952. According to Overstreet's Comic Book Price Guide, the story that appeared on that date was titled "Mission...the Moon." I know this for a fact since the first page of this section is reproduced in color in the price guide. In the current Spirit No.21, you have "A DP on the Moon," which appeared on August 10, 1952. This is true—but according to Overstreet, this issue is the last issue of the weekly Spirit ever published. Therefore, how could it be continued, as you claim?

Gary Dunaier

67-18 Parsons Boulevard, Flushing, New York 11365

MYSTERIOUS MISSING CHAPTER

I like mysteries, but this one is almost too much. In your latest issue (No.21) there appears the 2nd episode of "Outer Space." However, a year or so ago I got a copy of a West German magazine called *Comixene*. In that magazine is printed episode one, the same initial episode that you ran. But in that same German magazine there is quite another second episode! How many second episodes are there? Is your second episode not really the third one? Whodunit? Apart from that, keep up the good job with your great publication.

K. Arne Blom

Smaskolevagen 22, S-223, 87 Lund, Sweden

PRO ARTIST TERRY AUSTIN...

For a long time I have wanted to contribute a drawing to your excellent *Spirit* magazine. One of the reasons for the delay was the dilemma of trying to think of something new to say concerning Will Eisner's ageless creation. Everyone already knows that Eisner is the supreme graphic tale-spinner and that *The Spirit* is the most human (as well as the most fun) of any modern adventure characters.

So let me just say that, as one of the current crop of toilers in the field of comic book art, that it's still nice to be able sit down for an all-too infrequent hour and lose yourself in that well-delineated magical world of *The Spirit*. Having got that off my chest, I thought it only appropriate to let our good friend Denny Colt comment on the current state of the comic book hero (including the X-Men, the series where most of my energy is expended these days.)

Terry Austin
Rye, New York 10580

Gary: The "Outer Space" episode in Spirit No. 20 was the first Wood Spirit. Its correct date is July 27, 1952. "Mission...the Moon" is the correct 2nd episode of the Wood story. It should have run chronologically in *The Spirit* No.21, but the 3rd chapter ("DP") was inadvertently run in its place. We apologize for the error. For the record, Overstreet notwithstanding, the "DP" story is not the last Spirit story. The Spirit serial begun by Wood continues for eleven episodes in all, though not all were drawn by Wood or even by Eisner. We'll run them all. More on this in subsequent issues.

To Arne and the many other readers who saw the error: We goofed. It won't happen again.

LOVES NEW EISNER STORY

I now own all of the Kitchen Spirits and I can safely say that No.21 was the best yet. The cover was great! I would also prefer to see an extra page of letters in place of the essays. How many more installments of "Life on Another Planet" can we expect? Many, I hope. This story is really an exceptional piece of comic art. Keep up the good work.

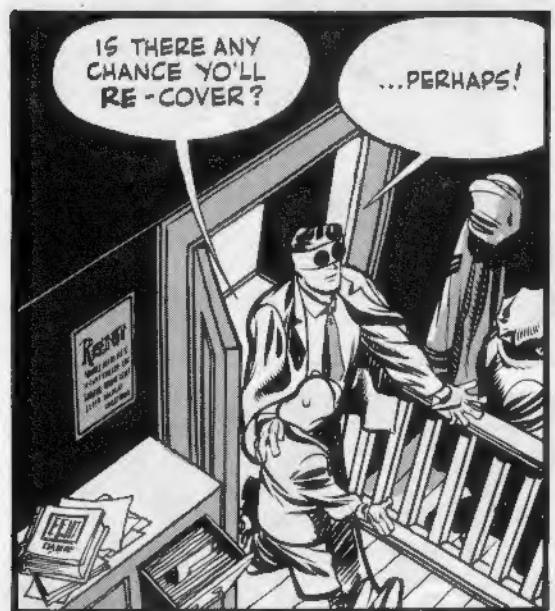
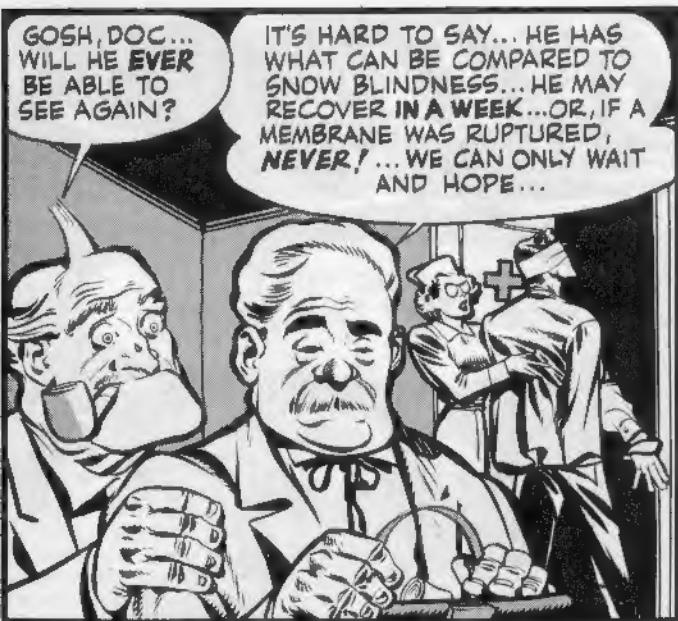
David Scherpenhuizen

Silvanushof 9, Maastricht, Netherlands

David: As this issue went to press, Eisner had plotted out the complete "Life on Another Planet" but had not yet determined how many chapters it would require. Rest assured there are still surprises to come...







MEANWHILE...



OH... HELLO, BUGG-EYE...
SNEAD IS WAITIN'
FOR YA INSIDE...

THANKS! SORRY
I'M LATE.. BUT THE
COPS SEEM TO
KNOW THAT I WAS
COMIN' T'TOWN...
TOOK ME AN HOUR
TO SHAKE 'EM!

HYA, SNEAD... I THINK
WE BETTER GIT THIS
STOCKHOLDER'S MEETING
OVER WIT'... REAL QUICK...

YEAH.
HEY, MURDER,
..C'MON IN HERE,
WILLYA ...



O.K... O.K.. I'LL
BE RIGHT WITCHA!



AS YOU KNOW, WE BEEN SELLING "OPTIONS" TO PURCHASE APARTMENTS IN OUR UNBUILT APARTMENT HOUSE 'CROST THE STREET... WELL, THIS WEEK WE'LL HAVE COLLECTED \$50,000 IN ADVANCES OR DEPOSITS FROM G.I. SUCKERS! WE ARE NOW READY TO SELL THE PROPERTY TO SOMEONE AND DISSOLVE THE CORPORATION...

YEAH YEAH YEAH.
...HOW ARE YOU GOING TO STOP DOLAN? HE'S THE POLICE...

UNLESS DOLAN "QUEERS" IT.

VERY OFTEN THE SIMPLE METHOD IS THE BEST... I'LL TELL HIM WHO WE ARE... INVITE HIM OVER ALONE... PUT IT ON HIS HONOR... HE'LL SENSE A SCOOP... AND WHEN HE GETS HERE...

JOVE! THAT PLAN SOUNDS STUPID ENOUGH TO WORK!



POLICE HEADQUARTERS... A FEW MINUTES LATER...

...YEAH... YEAH, YOU CAN TRUST ME TO KEEP MY WORD... IF YOU GUYS ARE REALLY READY TO CONFESS, I'LL SEE THAT YOU GET A BREAK... SURE I'LL BE ALONE.. WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?.. HMM...

THAT YOU, EBONY?.. WHY DON'T YOU GO AWAY AND LET ME TAKE CARE OF MYSELF?..? MMLBLE

GULP
YASSUH



YOU LEAVING, DOLAN?.. I CAN HEAR YOU OPEN THE DOOR..

...ER.. AHEM! GOT A LUNCH DATE... OLD FRIENDS!! SEE YOU LATER, SPIRIT, OL' BOY!

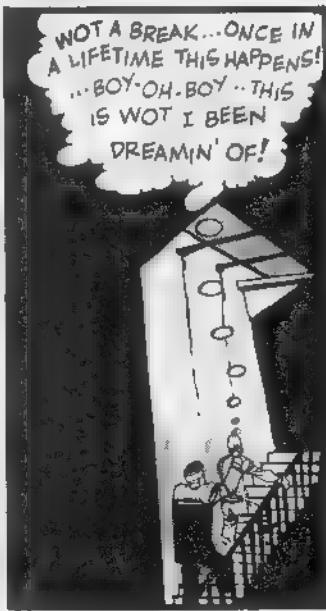


LUNCH WITH OLD FRIENDS.. I MAY BE BLIND, BUT DOLAN DIDN'T FOOL ME.. HMM.. WHERE'S THAT PAD... AH... LUCKY HE WRITES WITH A HARD PENCIL... THE IMPRESSION IS CLEAR!



FUNNY... THE DOORS ARE ALL OPEN.. I'M GETTING ALONG FINE WITHOUT HELP...

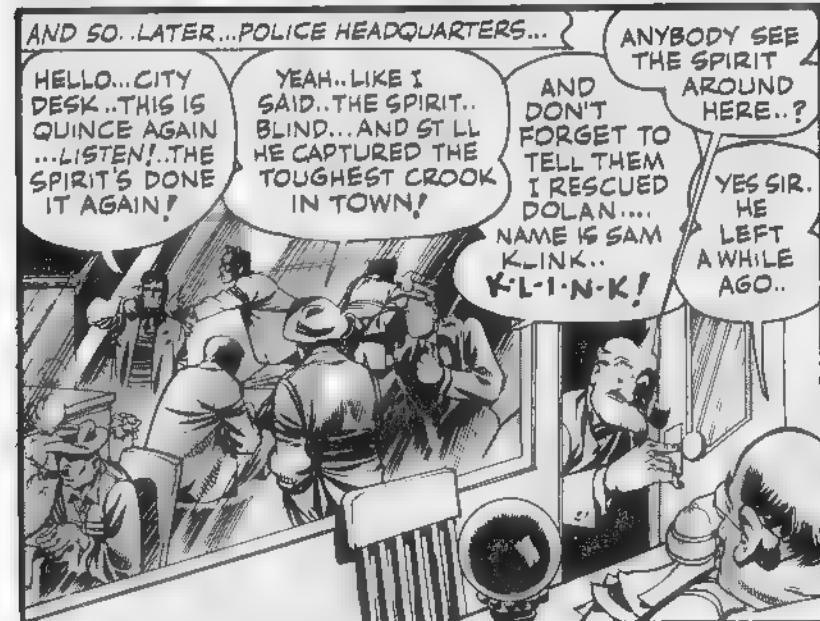
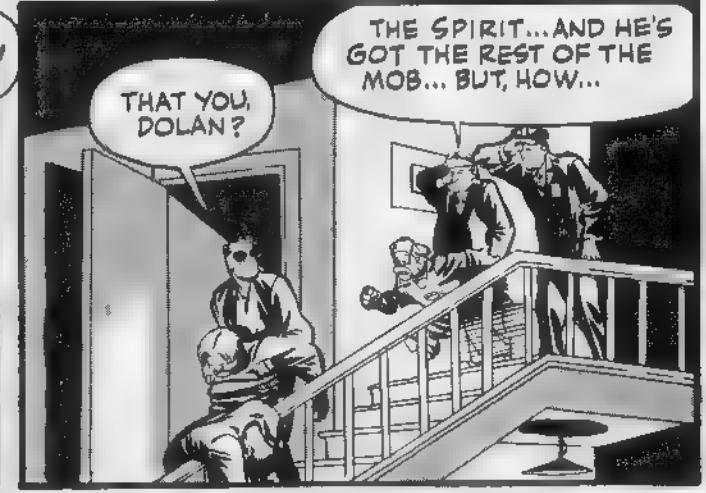
15 FINGO'S FLATS... AND HURRY!





...AH FOLLEYD
THE SP.RIT,
MST' KLINK..
HE COULDN'T
SEE ME 'CAUSE
=GULP=
HE'S BLIND....

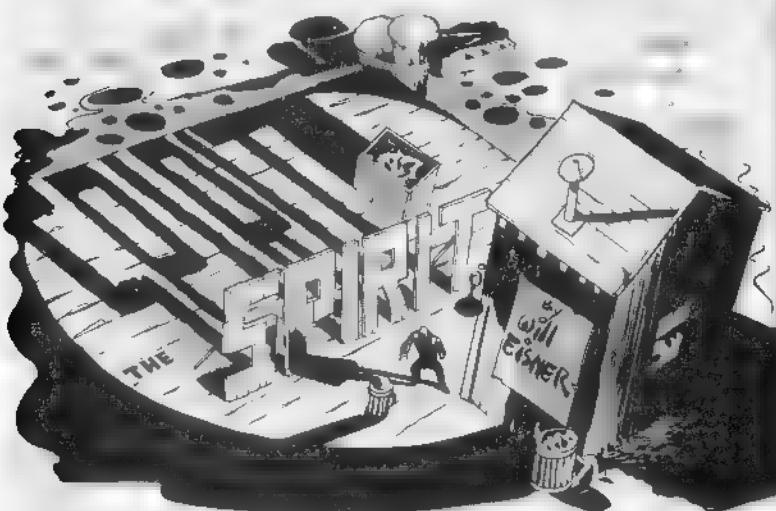




A KILLER AT LARGE

TO THOSE OF OUR READERS WHO HAVE FELT THE DEATH-COLD CLAMMINESS OF THE WATERFRONT... AND HEARD THE STIFLED SOUNDS THAT PRECEDE A CRIME...

WE NEED NOT EXPLAIN THE INTERNAL TERROR THAT FILLS THE COUNTLESS CRANNIES OF THE UNDERWORLD WHEN THERE'S A KILLER AT LARGE...



IT LASTS BUT A MOMENT... A DEATH-RATTLE SPASM OF A MOMENT...



FOR A WHILE THERE IS SILENCE... THEN!... A FRANTIC POLICE WHISTLE... A FLURRY OF FLATFOOTED FEET... SOUND AND FURY... HARK! THE KILLER IS CAUGHT...

... AND SILENCE SEEPS BACK INTO THE AREA



THEN AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS THE SHINY MACHINERY OF THE LAW GOES INTO GEAR ...

THE CRIMINAL IS BOOKED, CUFFED, AND QUESTIONED... SHOVED INTO THE AGONY OF... THE LINEUP!



PATROLMAN SAM KLINK!

DO YOU MEAN TO STAND THERE ON YOUR TWO FLAT FEET AND ADMIT THAT YOU CALLED ME DOWN HERE IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT JUST FOR THIS!

BUT..BUT.. COMMISSIONER. HE BIT A MAN TO DEATH...

SO WHAT!
DO I LOOK LIKE THE DOG CATCHER?

BUT SIR..THE MAN HE KILLED WAS JIM TWITCH, THE NEWLY ELECTED DOG CATCHER!

O.K...SO YOU CAN HAVE THE CASE.. BUT LET ME GIVE YOU SOME ADVICE, KLINK... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ANY PROMOTIONS IN MY DEPARTMENT BY ARRESTING DOGS!



AND SO... THE CRIMINAL IS CAGED...FLUNG INTO A CELL TO AWAIT THE DOOM HE KNOWS MUST COME...

HE PACES THE FLOOR...

IT IS AS THOUGH HE WERE HURLED INTO ANOTHER WORLD...A GRIM SOCIETY EAGER TO HAVE HIM SHARE IN THEIR MISERY...

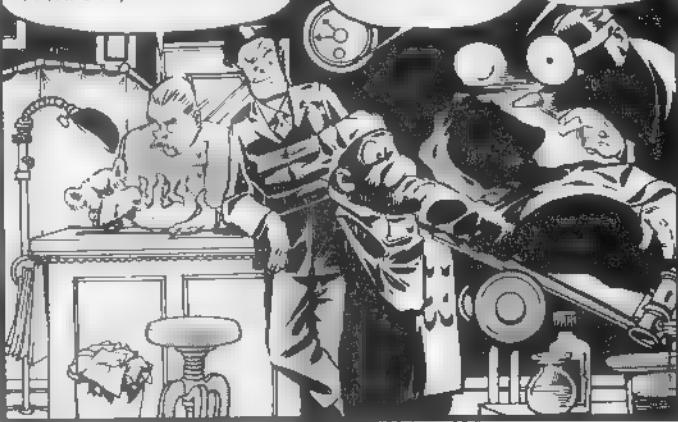


AND AT LAST MORNING COMES...

WELL, OFFICER KLINK.. WE'VE MADE EVERY TEST ...THIS DOG IS PERFECTLY HEALTHY... GOT A BAD TEMPER, THAT'S ALL...

WELL..NOW I'M REALLY UP A TREE.. OH, HELLO SPIRIT..

AH... THAT YOU, KLINK?



DOCTOR..
IS HE ..
STILL BLIND?
STILL BLIND? I'M AFRAID SO,
EBONY..BUT HE'LL RECOVER, I'M SURE. WITH
YOU BESIDE HIM! JUST KEEP PUTTING
THOSE DROPS IN HIS EYES.

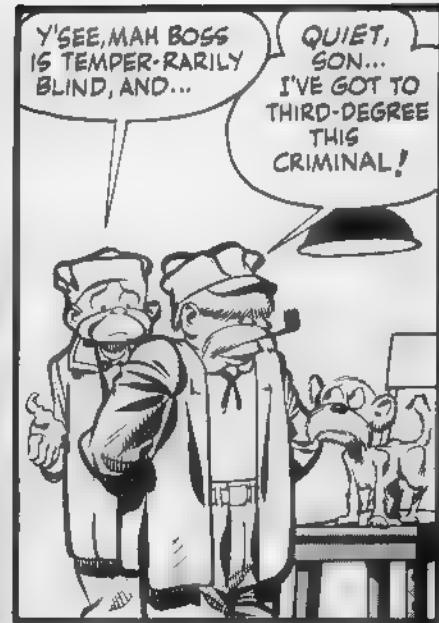
SOUNDS LIKE
YOU'VE GOT A
PROBLEM, KLINK..
...YEAH.
MAN WAS BITTEN
TO DEATH BY THIS
DOG..YET THE DOG
ISN'T SICK..
DOLAN WILL LAUGH
ME OUT OF THE FORCE!

CHEE... THAT'S
A GOOD ANGLE!



DID YOU EVER THINK OF
TESTING THE MAN ? I'LL
WAGER YOU'LL FIND HE
DIED OF POISON..AND
I'LL BET IT WAS MURDER..
BY ANOTHER HUMAN!





MEANWHILE, IN THE LABORATORY DOWNSTAIRS...

ANYTHING ELSE, SPIRIT?

NOT NOW... THANKS FOR THE AUTOPSY, DOC... EBONY'S CHECKING FOR ME ON THAT GADGET WE FOUND IN TWITCH'S WOUND.

WHY, IT'S NUTHIN' BUT A LIL' METAL CAP WITH A SHARP POINT...

GOOD... NOW THAT'S ALL WE'LL NEED TO START WITH...

Y'KNOW, KLINK, I'M A POWERFUL MAN IN THIS TOWN.. HELPED GET THE MAYOR INTO OFFICE.. NOW, YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO EMBARRASS US WITH FALSE ARREST...

ER... GULP... N-NO SIR !



NOW IT'S CLEAR... THIS DOG DID IT.. WHY NOT LET THE MATTER REST?.. AS FOR PROMOTIONS.. I'LL PERSONALLY KEEP MY EYE ON YOU...

YES SIR!

HELLO, KLINK.. GET A LEAD?

ER.. NO, SPIRIT.. IT LOOKS LIKE THIS DOG DID IT.. HEH HEH.. OPEN AND SHUT CASE.. IF MR. BOWSER DIDN'T DO IT, IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE DOG.



WHY EVEN EBONY AGREES TO.. THAT. EH..



AND NOW, MR. BOWSER, BE GOOD ENOUGH TO INSTRUCT A DOG TO GO TO THIS ADDRESS.. ER.. FRIEND OF MINE WANTS TO ADOPT HIM.

SURE! MIGHTY NICE OF YOU TO FIND HOMES FOR THESE POOR ORPHANS..

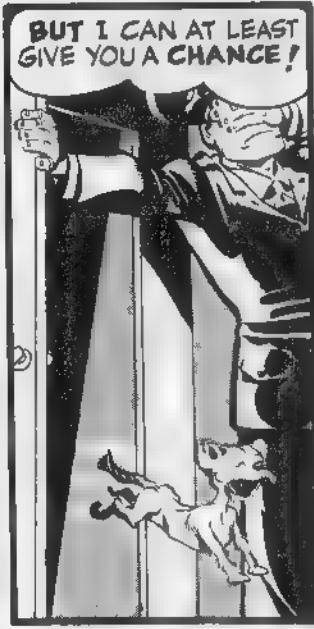
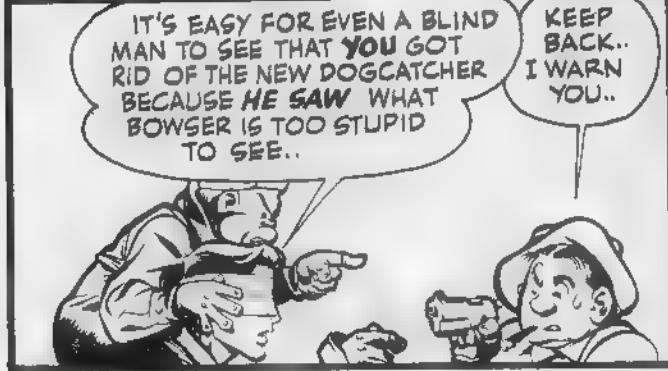
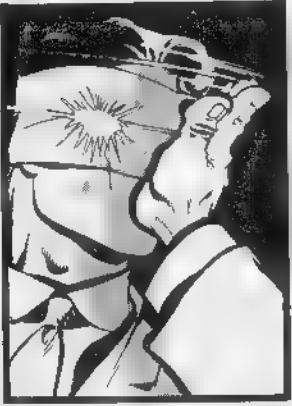
ER.. HRMPE.. NOT AT ALL, NOT AT ALL.. JUST LOVE DOGS.. JUST LOVE 'EM !

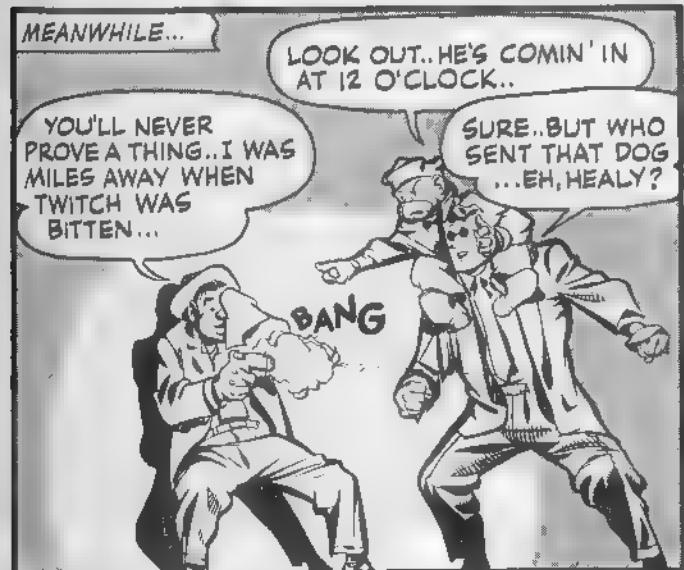
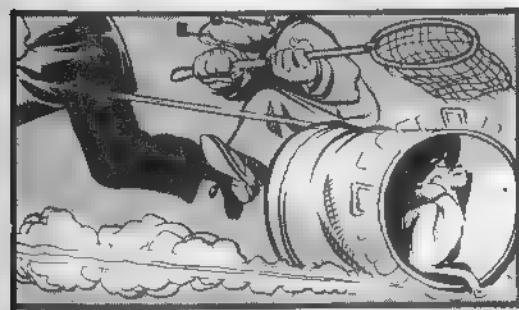
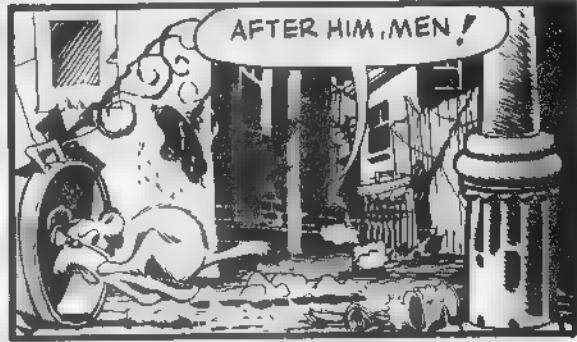
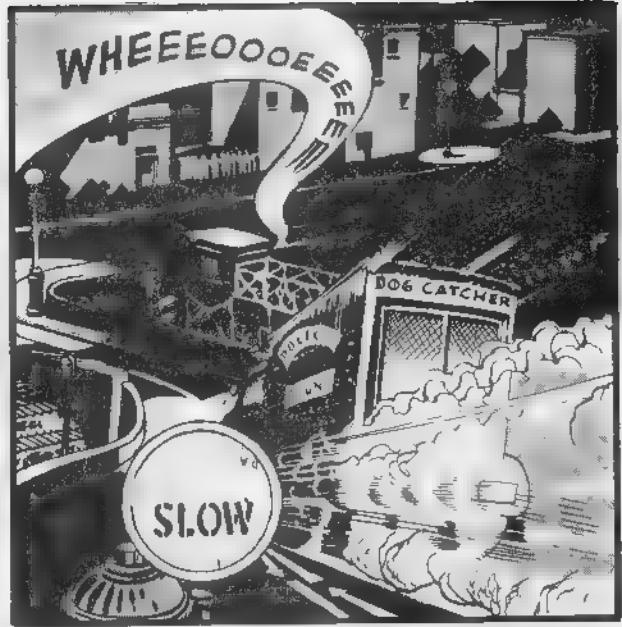


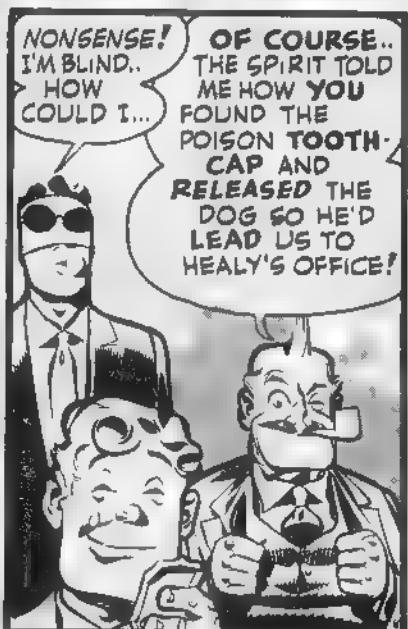
A FEW MINUTES LATER...

STOP GROWLIN' OR I'LL KNOCK THE FLEAS OFFA YA...











INTO
THE
LIGHT

THE SPIRIT

By Will Eisner

TO BE BLIND IS LIKE WALKING IN A CLOUD OF SOFT, WET QUICKSAND, AND AT BEST IT IS A HELPLESS FEELING... BUT TO BE BLIND IN A JUNGLE OF DANGER, TO FEEL THE ELECTRIC PRESENCE OF DEATH, IS UNLIKE ANY IMAGINABLE TORTURE... RIGHT NOW I AM IN A HOSPITAL... :SNIFF: :SNIFF: THE MEDICAL SMELL... THE CLINK OF PORCELAIN TRAYS... THE HUSHED VOICES...

.... I CAN RECOGNIZE SOME VOICES....

PLEASE, DOCTOR FLOSS... AH KNOWS YO' C'N CURE HIS BLINDNESS...

OH, DEAR... WHY DIDN'T YOU COME TO ME BEFORE...? OH, DEAR...

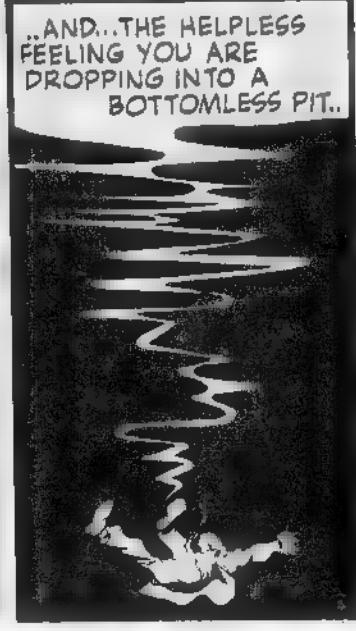
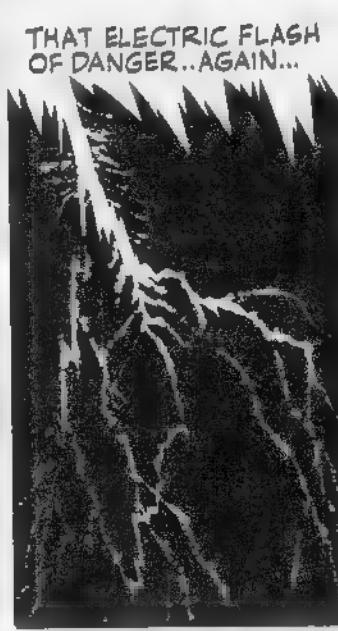
IT'S
ONLY
BEEN 3
WEEKS
SINCE HE
GOT BLINDED
BY A GUN
FLASH.

HMM... IT'S
NOT SERIOUS.. JUST
ISN'T HEALED YET...
EBONY..

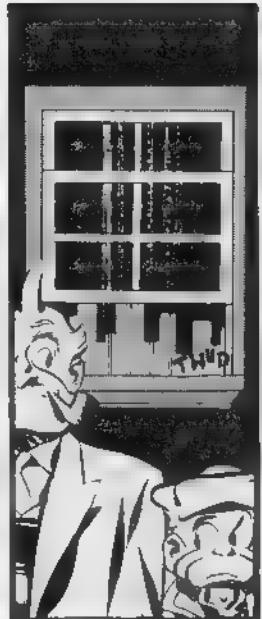
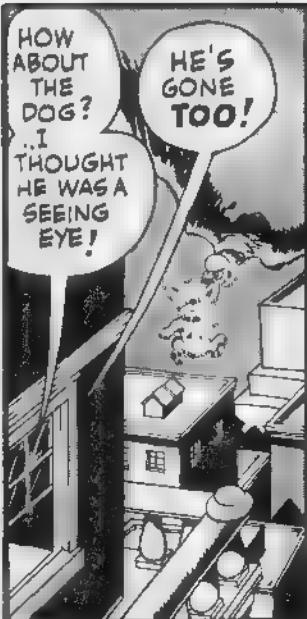


AND ON THE LAST BREATH OF DAY.. THE MIRACLE ARRIVES... IN CENTRAL CITY'S HARBOR...





POLICE HEADQUARTERS...



MEANWHILE...



IT MUST BE THE
NEXT DAY... I WAS
SLUGGED... BUT BY
WHOM? ...

...I JUST WOKE UP..
...SOMEONE HAS
BEEN PUTTING DROPS
IN MY EYES...

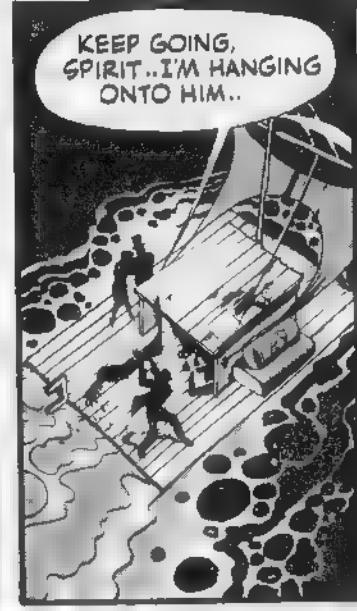
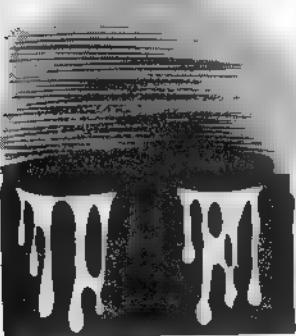
WHERE AM I ??

SSH! SPIRIT.. THIS IS
DR. FLOSS.. WE'RE
PRISONERS ON MR.
CARRION'S RAFT.. HOW
ARE YOUR EYES.. CAN
YOU SEE? I'VE BEEN
USING THE "FLUID X"
ON YOU...

CARRION! NOW
I REMEMBER ...

OH, IF ONLY I COULD
SEE ... I MUST DO
SOMETHING.. HE HAS
A BUZZARD.. GOT TO
KNOCK IT OUT FIRST.

SPIRIT..
DON'T START
A STRUGGLE
WAIT
LOOK OUT
...THE
BUZZARD!



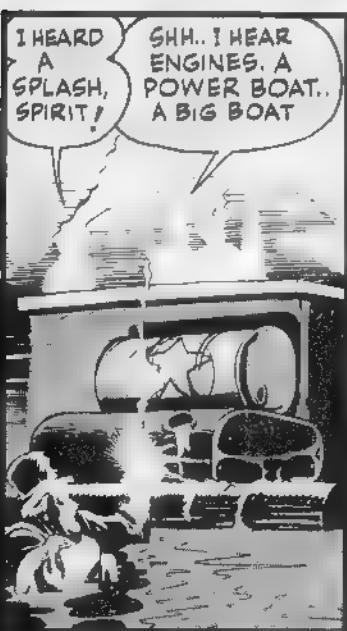
AT SEA...

CONFOUND
THE LUCK..THERE'S
A FOG CLOSING
IN...SPIRIT..KEEP
YOUR DISTANCE!

JULIA..GET UP..
JULIA..I CAN'T LET
GO OF THIS SHE-
DEVIL..JULIA..
GET THE SPIRIT..
I CAN'T
SEE HIM..

IT'S SO QUIET..I
CAN'T SEE...SPI-
RIT..
...STAY WHERE
YOU ARE! I..ER.
I CAN SEE
YOU...

OOF!



GOOD GRIEF.. NOT AGAIN... I MUST HAVE BEEN BLOWN TO BITS ...DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHAT IT'S LIKE TO REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS? IT'S LIKE CLIMBING UP A STEEP CLIFF!

LOOK HE IS WAKING UP..

SPIRIT... SPEAK TO US... YOU O.K.?

NO... MY EYES ARE CLOSED... BUT WHY KID MYSELF... YET MAYBE.. OH.. I.. I.. I'LL OPEN THEM.. ONE.. TWO...

THREE... FOOEY.. STILL BLIND... STILL..

AH.. EBONY.. AND THAT'S DOLAN'S VOICE.. UGH! I DON'T FEEL LIKE TALKING... I'M STILL BLIND..

NO.. WAIT!
WAIT A MINUTE..

I CAN SEE AGAIN...

HE CAN SEE!



AND FAR OUT AT SEA, ANOTHER JOYOUS REUNION IS CELEBRATED.

JULIA.. JULIA...
YOU'RE ALIVE.. OH, THANK GOODNESS.. YOU'RE ALIVE
..MY LITTLE FEATHERED DARLING..



LIFE ON ANOTHER PLANET

PLEASE
WAIT HERE
MR. BLUDD.
A SECRETARY
WILL ESCORT
YOU.

...WHAT A SIGHT...
A SUPINE CITY CONCERNED
WITH MERE EXISTENCE - WHILE
A CIVILIZATION ON A DISTANT
PLANET IS TRYING TO MAKE
CONTACT - AN IMPACT THAT
COULD CHANGE THE DESTINY OF
HUMAN KIND!! YET, WE CRAWL
ABOUT DOING LITTLE THINGS...
ARE WE, AFTER ALL, ONLY
ANTS ON A PIECE OF
SPACE DEBRIS CALLED
EARTH ??

MR. MACREADY
WILL SEE YOU
NOW, MR.
BLUDD.

THIS WAY
MR. BLUDD

QUITE A SUITE OF
OFFICES, MISS...

WELL, AFTER ALL... THIS IS
THE TRIPARTATE COMMISSION!

CLICK CLACK CLICK CLICK CLACK CLICK CLACK CLACK CLACK

CLICK
CLACK





THIS IS MR.
MBOBE... YOUR
NEW FINANCE
MINISTER...
ETERNAL
PRESIDENT

INTELLIGENCE
REPORT
SIGNAL
FROM
PLANET
BERNARD

CAN WE
POSSIBLY
PAY ON
ANY
DEBTS
TO THE
OTHER
NATIONS
MR.
MBOBE
??

NO, WE OWE OVER 100
BILLION TO 5 NATIONS
MOSTLY IN THE
WEST...

SO... THEN WE
SHALL FREEZE ALL FOREIGN
PROPERTY... CLOSE OUR
BORDERS AND...

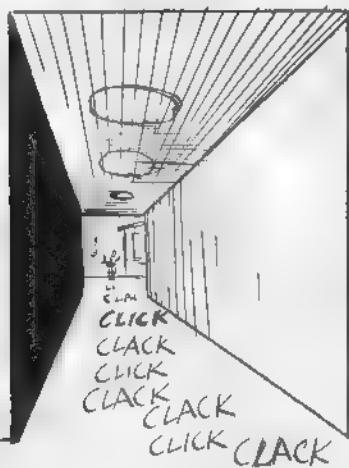
WE SHALL
SECEDE
FROM THE
PLANET EARTH
... WE WILL NO
LONGER OWE
MONEY TO
ANYONE!

I DECLARE OUR MEMBERSHIP
IN THE PLANET BERNARD!

INVITE THE STAR PEOPLE CULT
TO SIDIANI!!
WE ARE NOW A COLONY
OF ANOTHER PLANET!!

JUST TAKE
THE ELEVATOR
TO THE FIRST
STOP, MR. BLUDD

THANK
YOU, MISS.



CLACK CLACK CLACK CLACK



MR.
MACREADY
?

AHH WELCOME
MR. BLUDD... COME
ON IN!

TAKE A SEAT
NEXT TO ME... YOU'LL
BE SITTING IN ON A
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
TRIPARTATE COMMISSION

WHAT'S THE
TRIPARTATE
COMMISSION?

AN INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE OF LEADERS
IN ALL FIELDS OF HUMAN
AFFAIRS... QUITE
INFLUENTIAL!! SHHH,
WE'RE CONDUCTING A
REVIEW...

... AND
THESE ARE THE
MAJOR WORLD-
REPORTING POINTS
RESPONDING TO
OUR SURVEY...

WHAT IS THE
GENERAL RESPONSE
TO THE SPACE SIGNAL
REPORT?

SURPRISINGLY INDIFFERENT!... OF
THE 3000 CULTS IN NORTH AMERICA,
FOR INSTANCE, ONLY A FEW HAVE DEALT
WITH THE SUBJECT. NOTABLY, THE **STAR**
PEOPLE, WHICH NOW NUMBERS 10,000
FOLLOWERS IS THE MAJOR GROUP!
THEY ARE REPORTED TO COLLECT
ABOUT \$5 MILLION ANNUALLY!

THANK YOU,
DR. COLE... AND
WHAT ABOUT
THE ESTABLISHED
RELIGIOUS
GROUPS?

OFFICIALLY... A WAIT-N-SEE
ATTITUDE PREVAILS. THERE ARE
ABOUT 350 ARTICLES IN PUBLICATION
ABOUT THE RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE
OF INTELLIGENT LIFE ON ANOTHER
PLANET.

ECONOMIC PATTERNS
ARE UNAFFECTED, MOSTLY
- BUT SOME SMALL
COMPANIES ARE
PROMOTING SPACE
RADIOS... TOYS!!

INDUSTRY?

... LITTLE
IMPACT! OH, A
MARKED RISE IN
ABSENTEEISM - BUT
HOW MUCH WE CAN
ATTRIBUTE TO THIS
IS QUESTIONABLE
!!

... AND
SCIENCE
??

A RASH OF
ABSTRACT RESEARCH!
... UNIVERSITIES ARE
ACTIVE. THE NATIONAL
SCIENCE RESEARCH PEOPLE
ARE MOST CONCERNED!
THEY SEE OUR PLANET, EARTH,
IN DIRE NEED OF ENERGY
SOURCES AND AGRICULTURE
SPACE! IN THE NEXT CENTURY,
THE CONSENSUS IS THAT WE
MUST MAKE CONTACT
WITH WHO-OR-WHATEVER
IS ON THAT
PLANET!

WHAT DO
WE REALLY
KNOW ABOUT
THAT PLANET
OR ITS SUN
?

WELL, FIRST OF
ALL THE NATURE
OF THE SIGNAL
IMPLIES AN ADVANCED
TECHNOLOGY... AT
LEAST EQUAL TO
THE TASK OF
SENDING A
SIGNAL!

OUR ASTRONOMIC
DATA, ADMITTEDLY SLIM,
PERMITS ONLY A GUESS!
... WE THINK IT MAY HAVE
TROPICAL ATMOSPHERE,
MOISTURE, HYDROGEN
OR OTHER GASSES ...
WE KNOW LITTLE
ELSE!

NOW, SIR...
SUPPOSE WE
COULD TRANSPORT
AND IMPLANT
LIFE ON THAT
PLANET TO
INSURE OUR
PRIMACY??

- NONSENSE!!
WE CAN'T RISK
A HUMAN LIFE
ON SO FRIVOLOUS
AN IDEA!

NOT HUMAN
LIFE AS WE KNOW
IT - BUT A LIFE-
FORM FABRICATED
FOR THE
PURPOSE!

WE HAVE
SUCCEEDED IN
CREATING A CELLULAR
MUTATION... A HUMAN
CELL-WITH-A-PLANT
CELL TO FORM AN
ORGANISM THAT CAN
SURVIVE ON A
PLANET LIKE
BERNARD, AND...

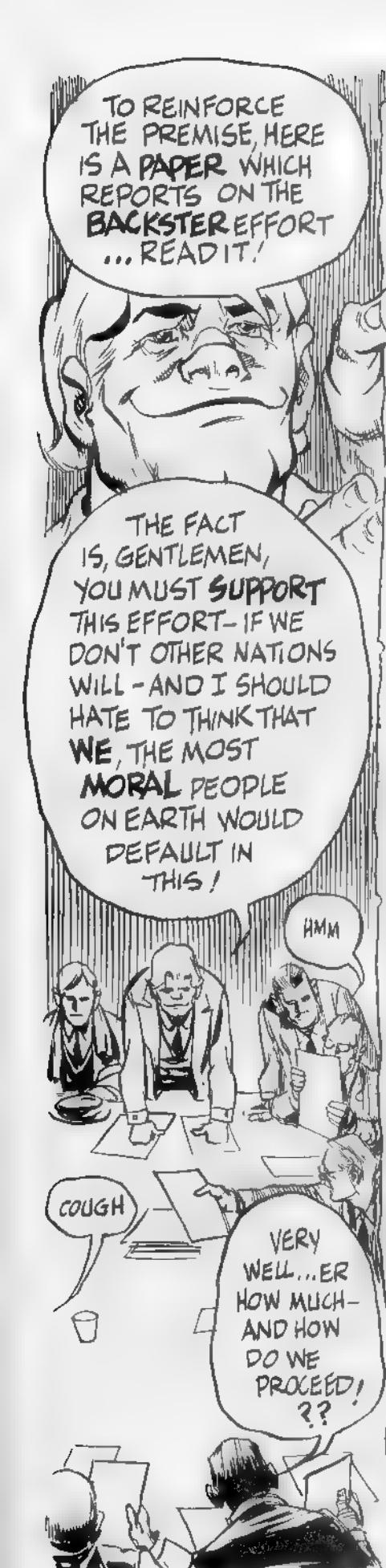
DR. JONES...
YOUR REPORT
... PLEASE!

... WE BELIEVE THAT WITH THE
INSEMINATION OF PEPTIDES SUCH AS
THE ENDORPHIN (Substance P) ONE OF THE
CHEMICALS FOUND IN HUMANS WHICH
PROVIDES REACTION TO DISTRESS LIKE;
PAIN, PLEASURE ETC... AND VASOPRESYN -
A PEPTIDE WHICH FUNCTIONS AS A
PROTECTION OF MEMORY - ALSO, BY ADDING
BRADYKININ AND NEUROTENSIN (WHICH IN
HUMANS EFFECT BODY SECRETION
AND TEMPERATURE) WE CAN INDEED
SIMULATE A LIFE-FORM SUITABLE
TO YOUR PURPOSE.

GOOD LORD!
THIS IS SCIENCE
FICTION!
GASP!
GASP
NONSENSE

WE ARE
OUT OF OUR
AREA OF
COMPETENCE!
... IT IS A NATIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY
NOT OURS...

GENTLEMEN...
GENTLEMEN!! YOU ARE
MISTAKEN... THIS IS JUST AN
EXPEDIENT... WE ARE JUST
ACTING PROMPTLY UNTIL
HUMAN BEINGS CAN
MAKE THE JOURNEY IT
IS ECONOMIC FORESIGHT
... PURE AND SIMPLE!



TO REINFORCE
THE PREMISE, HERE
IS A PAPER WHICH
REPORTS ON THE
BACKSTER EFFORT
... READ IT!

THE FACT
IS, GENTLEMEN,
YOU MUST SUPPORT
THIS EFFORT - IF WE
DON'T OTHER NATIONS
WILL - AND I SHOULD
HATE TO THINK THAT
WE, THE MOST
MORAL PEOPLE
ON EARTH WOULD
DEFAULT IN
THIS!

HMM

COUGH

VERY
WELL...ER
HOW MUCH -
AND HOW
DO WE
PROCEED!
??

On the morning of February 2, 1966, one of America's foremost lie-detector experts made a fascinating discovery. The man's name was CLEVE BACKSTER; the strange revelation—which was to initiate a continuing series of the most unusual experiments in the history of horticulture—began when he decided to find out how long it would take water to travel from the roots to the leaves of an office plant. To satisfy his curiosity, he attached a pair of polygraph electrodes to a leaf of his *dracena massangeana*. The result stunned him. So much so that it has altered his life from that day.

What Backster expected to find was a decrease in electrical resistance, induced by increased moisture. Instead, to his astonishment, he observed a psychogalvanic reflex (PGR) pattern closely resembling that of a human under emotional stimulation!

Mr. Backster was far from a novice in the use of the polygraph, an instrument employed to detect emotional changes in humans and, thus, betray their true reactions to questioning.

Mr. Backster had, in fact, served as a C.I.A. polygraph section head for a number of years, and regularly taught police, private investigators and government personnel how to use it. An acknowledged expert, he was not likely to be mistaken about what he saw: his plant was apparently displaying *emotion!* To verify the amazing P.G.R. reading, he tried a number of experiments. First, he dropped brine shrimp into boiling water, in the presence of plants. The P.G.R. reading showed violent reaction. It appeared that some sort of extrasensory broadcast of danger was being transmitted to the plants by the dying shrimp cells. He repeated the killing experiment with other forms of life—fresh fruit and vegetables, yeast, mold, amoebae, paramecia, sperm—and, each time, the plants recorded the same violent reaction on the polygraph! Backster concluded that killings in the immediate vicinity of the plants proved that they share a characteristic with animals: each stakes out a territory and reacts to phenomena occurring within that space.

Further experimentation revealed that plants seem to possess a sort of "adaptive logic" or "memory," since repeated killings in their territory produced a diminishing reaction. This demonstrated, he concluded, that the subject plants gradually perceived that the killing of the shrimp did not endanger *them*. Incredible as it may seem, this indicated that plants can *THINK!*

As the result of several thousand tests of polygraphed plants since 1966, Backster has made the following observations:

PLANTS REACT SELF-DEFENSIVELY! When they feel threatened, they respond like animals or humans. According to P.G.R. readings, they can actually faint!

PLANTS RECOGNIZE HUMAN ENEMIES! They appear capable of loving, hating or fearing people. In one experiment, a physiologist (who customarily destroyed her plants when her testing was completed) entered Backster's laboratory and his plants "froze up" with fear. When she departed, they relaxed.

PLANTS DEVELOP RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR MASTERS! Monitoring showed that Backster's plants continued to react to his thoughts even when he moved to another room, or a distant building. Using automated equipment and precisely synchronized stopwatches, he proved that his plants registered an emotional reaction at the exact moment he decided to return from New Jersey to his New York lab . . . a distance of about 15 miles. Further tests demonstrated that no shield, Faraday Cage, lead container or similar enclosure could block out or interfere with the extrasensory communication link between plant and master.

THAT BRINGS US AT LAST TO THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THIS REVIEW! ... IF WE ARE THE FIRST TO POPULATE THAT PLANET WITH OUR LIFE FORM WE INSURE WESTERN DOMINANCE IN ANY FUTURE COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION!

MR. BLUDD, A CIA AGENT AND AN ASTROPHYSICIST, HAS JUST RETURNED FROM THE SOVIET UNION... WHAT IS THE SITUATION THERE JIM ??

THE USSR HAS ALREADY SENT A RESPONSE SIGNAL TO THE PLANET VIA BEAMED NUTRINOS.

AHEM... EXCUSE ME.. MR. MACREADY

GENTLEMEN... I HAVE A NEWS FLASH... THE COUNTRY OF SIDAMI HAS SECEDED FROM THE FAMILY OF NATIONS... IT PROCLAIMS ITSELF A COLONY OF THE PLANET BERNARD... A FORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT!

THEY'RE CRAZY!

HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA

...NOT SO CRAZY!
I PROPOSE WE ESTABLISH A LAUNCHING COMPLEX IN THAT COUNTRY AND SEND OUR IMMIGRANTS OFF FROM THAT COUNTRY!

THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER SUPPORT US!
... NOR WOULD ANY OTHER NATION

THE POLITICIANS WILL CHEW A PROJECT LIKE THIS TO BITS

OBVIOUSLY!
THAT'S WHY SIDAMI IS THE PERFECT LAUNCHING PAD!

THIS IS BIGGER THAN PETTY POLITICS....
MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION WILL PROVIDE THE TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW!!
IT IS AFTER ALL, A COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE

... AND
MR. BLUDD
WILL DIRECT
THE OPERATION

JUST A
MOMENT!
"HOLD ON!"

A
PROBLEM
MR. BLUDD
?!

THIS IS INSANE... IT'S IMMORAL!
... TO GAIN A COMMERCIAL
ADVANTAGE YOU ARE PUSHING
OUR SOCIETY INTO AN
ADVENTURE THAT WILL
INFLUENCE THE FUTURE OF
LIFE ON EARTH WITH
NO CONCERN FOR THE
CONSEQUENCES!

... NOT A
MAN IN THIS
ROOM EVEN
QUESTIONED
THE MORALITY—
OF CREATING
A NEW LIFE
FORM!

COUNT
ME OUT
GENTLEMEN
!!

IT APPEARS WE SHALL
HAVE TO PROCEED
WITHOUT MR. BLUDD!

TAP TAP
TAP TAP







MULTINATIONAL
IS A VERY SUBSTANTIAL
CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR
PARTY... WE'VE GOT
TO LOOK AT THIS IN
PERSPECTIVE
GRAYSON!

YOU SEE, MY BOY,
THIS IS AN ELECTION
YEAR... THE PRESIDENT
WILL NEED ANY INDUSTRY
SUPPORT WE CAN
GET HIM!

BESIDES... IN THE LONG
VIEW, MULTINATIONAL IS
ACTUALLY ACTING IN THE
NATIONAL INTEREST!

BUT,
SENATOR...
IT'S A...AN
EXECUTIVE
ORDER
!!

TUT, TUT, ...
GRAYSON, MY
BOY, THIS IS NOT
A FASCIST STATE!
WHY, WE JUST DON'T
ORDER A RESPECTED
MEMBER OF THE
PRIVATE SECTOR
AROUND WITHOUT
DUE PROCESS!

DO YOU
MEAN THAT I'VE
GOT TO TELL THE
PRESIDENT HE
CAN'T STOP
THEM?

NOW, GRAYSON...
I DIDN'T SAY THAT!
SURELY A BRIGHT YOUNG
HARVARD MAN LIKE
YOU CAN FIGURE AWAY
TO COMPLY WITH THE
PRESIDENTIAL ORDER
AND STILL NOT VIOLATE
FREE ENTERPRISE
!!

HMM
I SUPPOSE I
CAN INSTITUTE A
SUIT THROUGH THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S
OFFICE... HMM
BUT
THAT'LL TAKE A
YEAR OR TWO TO
PROCESS!

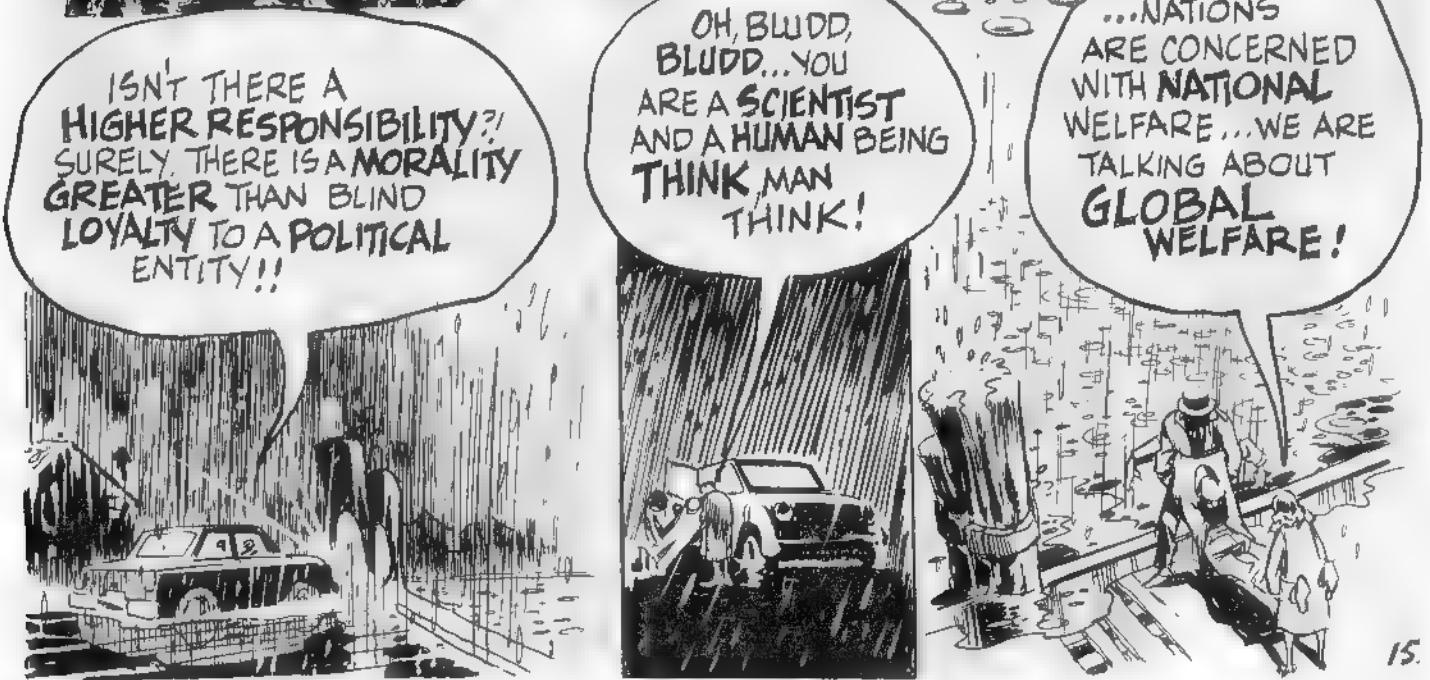
GOOD IDEA!
... AND BY
THEN A LOT
OF THINGS
MAY CHANGE!
THERE'S AN
ELECTION
YEAR
AHEAD!

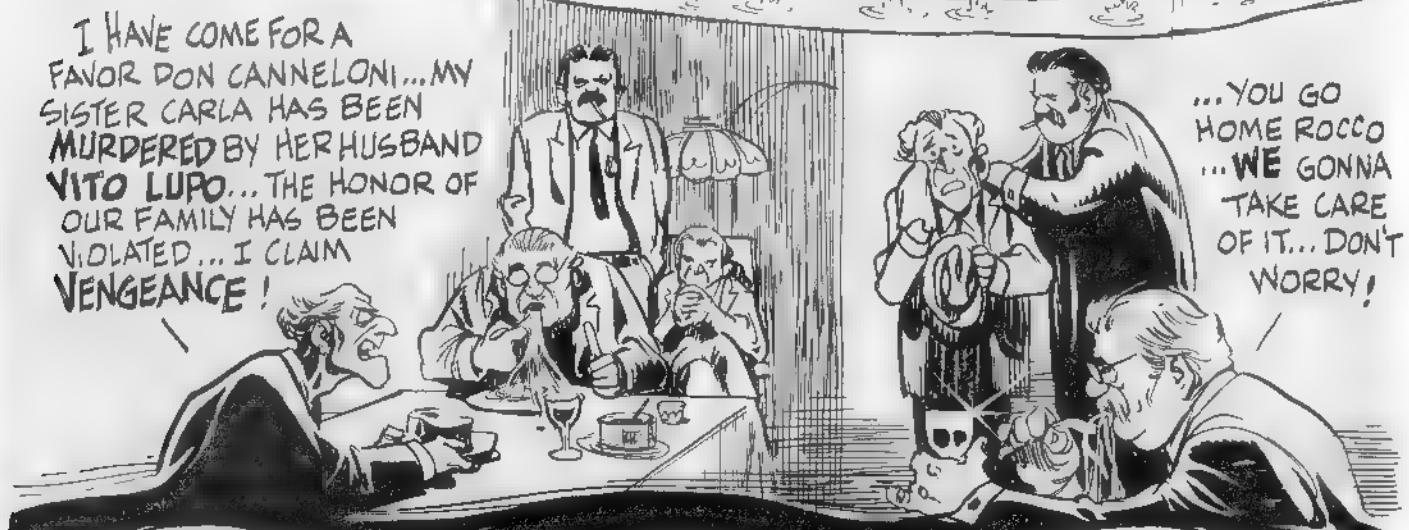
... BY THEN
YOU MAY BE
BACK IN THE
PRIVATE SECTOR
... LOOKIN' FOR
A JOB - I'M SURE
MULTINATIONAL
WILL REMEMBER
YOUR DEFT
HANDLING OF THIS

PERSPECTIVE
MY BOY,
PERSPECTIVE
!!

THANK
YOU
SENATOR.





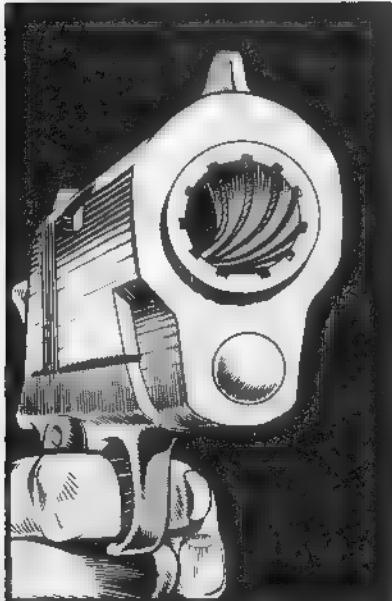


THE SPIRIT

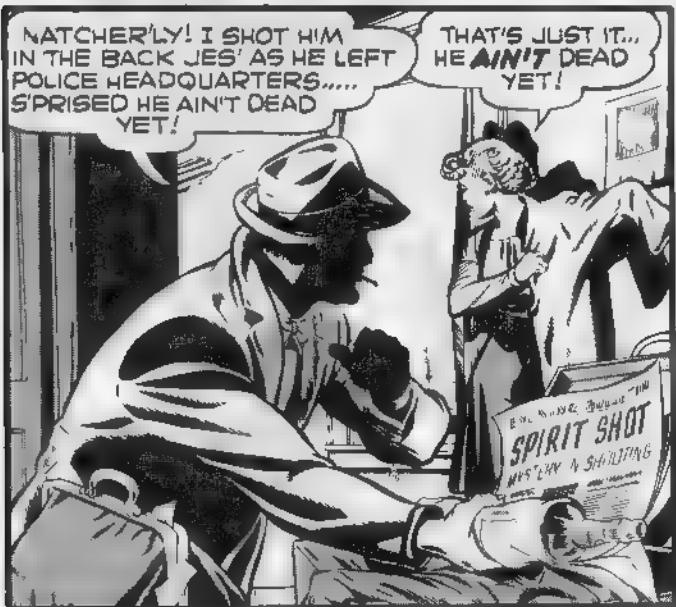
In the far reaches of the imagination...in the countless catacombs of man's conscience are many traps...it's these that often fight alongside law and order...and make so infrequent a thing as the

"PERFECT CRIME"!!

BY WILL EISNER



ONE HOUR LATER... A WATERFRONT
H. DEAWAY....



SEVERAL WEEKS LATER, ON AN UNCHARTED,
TINY ISLAND SOMEWHERE IN THE SOUTH
PACIFIC!

WELL, MAGGIE,
WADYA THINK?

OKAY, BUT TH' SPIRIT
WAS STILL ALIVE...AND
IT WOULDN'T BE HARD
TO FOLLOW US BY
PLANE!

SHADDAP!



I'M SORRY, MAGGIE! IT'S
ONLY THAT THAT GLY I SHOT
PUT A CURSE ON ME AND IT
SORTA SITS IN THE BACK
O' MY MIND!

WE'RE **SAFE** HERE! THE
ISLAND AIN'T EVEN
CHARTED!

AND IF HE DOES MANAGE TO
FIND US HERE...I'VE GOT **THAT**
ONE FIGGERED OUT, TOO!



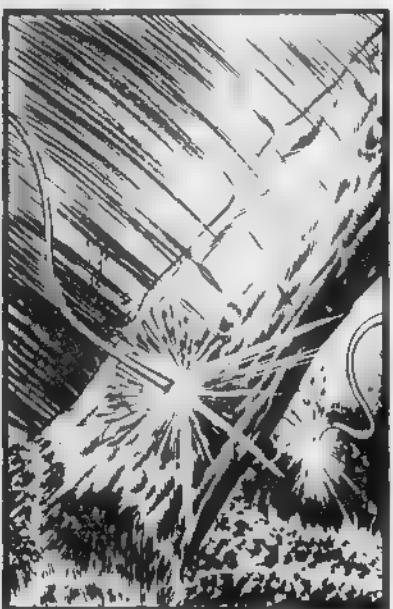
SEE, MACHINE GUNS ALL WIRED
BY ELECTRICITY SO'S YOU AND I
CAN FIRE THEM FROM INSIDE!

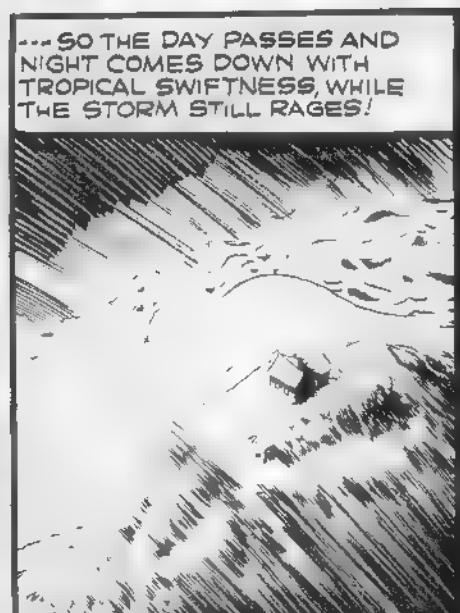
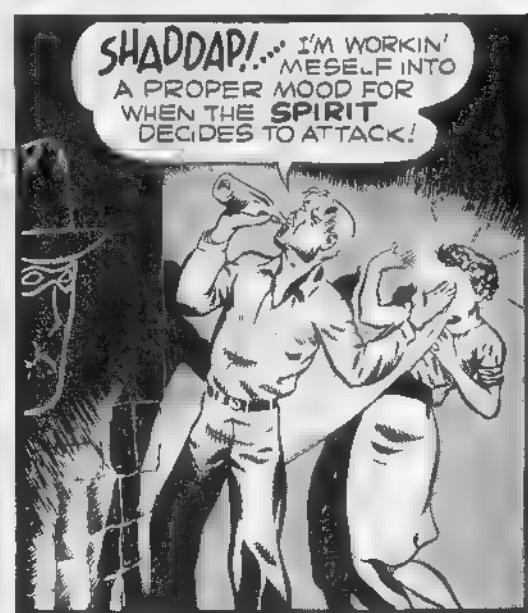
GEE, BAXTER, A
REGULAR, PRIVATE
SIGRIED LINE!

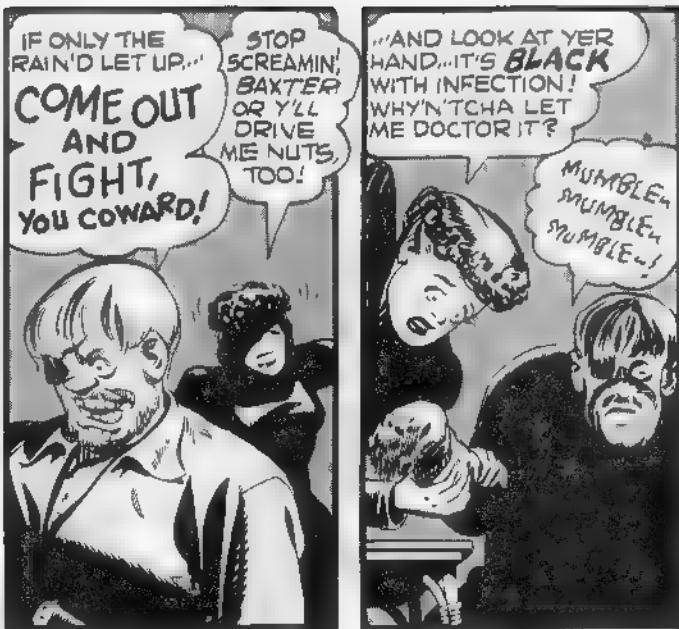
ALL WE GOTTA DO
IS SIT TIGHT FOR A
FEW MONTHS AND
THEN RETURN TO
THE STATES AS
TWO **WEALTHY**
FOLK WHO
DISCOVERED
A GOLD
MINE!

YEAH,
GUESS
YOU'RE
RIGHT,
BAX!









ALL NIGHT THE STORM RAGES! MADLY... AND SCREAMING AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS, BAXTER SCOURS THE LITTLE ISLE!

I'LL FIND YA!!!
I'LL FIND YA!!



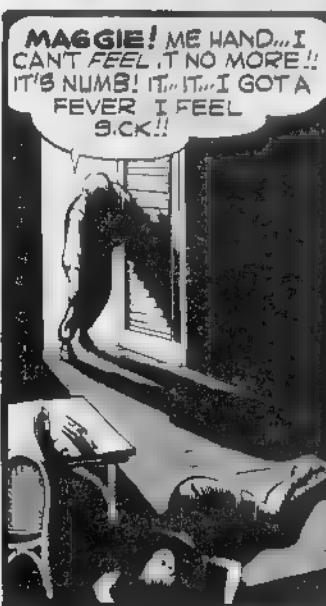
THE ALARM WIRE! IT'S BROKEN... IT WAS A FALSE ALARM! HEH, HEH, HEH, IT F-FOOLED ME!

AND THE NEW DAY DAWNS CLEAR AND BRIGHT!! A BATTERED, TIRED, SICK BAXTER EMERGES FROM THE BUSH!!

MAGGIE!... KOF... KOF... IT WAS A FAKE! WE WAS FOOLED... WE....

MAGGIE! ME HAND... I CAN'T FEEL IT NO MORE!! IT'S NUMB! IT... IT... I GOT A FEVER I FEEL SICK!!

GASP...!



Back in
CENTRAL CITY,
thousands
of miles
away!



HOW IS
HE NOW,
DOC?

HE'S GOT AN IRON
CONSTITUTION, BUT,
HE SHOULDN'T HAVE
TRIED TO CATCH UP
WITH THOSE CROOKS!
THAT TRIP TO THE
WHARF ALMOST
FINISHED
HIM!!



THE DOC
SAYS YOU'LL
BE OKAY,
SPIRIT!

I COULD KICK
MYSELF FOR
LETTING BAXTER
ESCAPE!

O WELL, YOU
CAN'T CATCH
'EM ALL THE
TIME!!

YOU
SHOULD
KNOW,
DOLAN!



Publisher's Note: Sharp readers instantly noticed that we ran Chapter Three of the "Outer Space" serial in the last issue and called it Chapter Two. For that mistake, we apologize. The real Chapter Two follows this page. To show readers how an editorial mistake like this could happen, Will and I invite you to follow us deep underground into the legendary...

EISNER VAULT



Outer Space

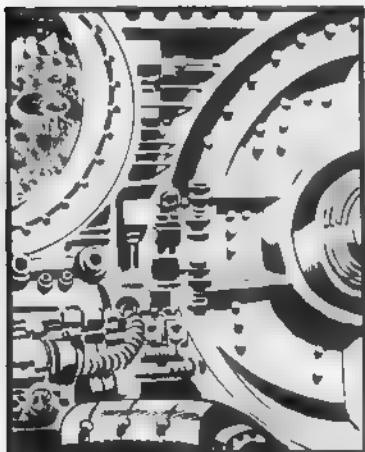
MISSION...THE

MOON

BY
WILL EISNER

This is a thing of people... that's what they forget when they talk about space ships and moon "missions." The rockets will get you there, and the scientists can keep you alive once you're up there, but still the success of it lies, but still people ... and the DANGER lies with people ...



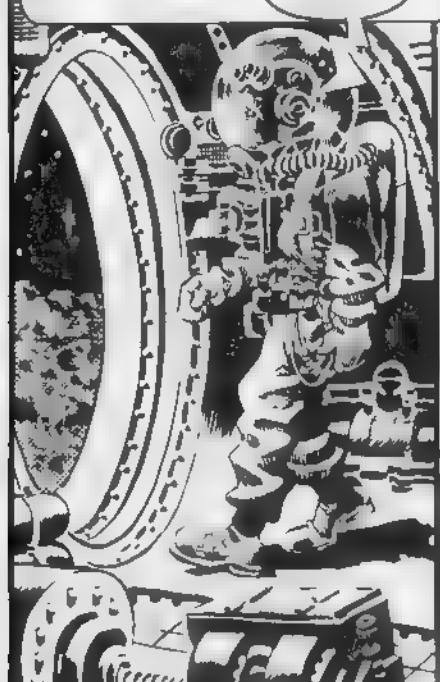


You wait, shrinking back into the ship. Who will be the first?



That is Professor Skol,
"the man" ... without him
there would be no moon
trip ... now he walks to
the door ...

FOLLOW
ME!



the moon ...

CHECK SPACE SUIT TEMPERATURES! YOU SHOULD ALL BE BREATHING EASILY!

O.K.
HERE!

I'M
FINE!

O.K.

JUST
RIGHT
PROF!

You listen for sounds. There are none. You breathe loudly just to hear something, even your own breathing...

MOVE AROUND CAREFULLY, NOW. TRY A FEW LEAPS IN ORDER TO UNDERSTAND HOW MUCH LESS GRAVITY THERE IS HERE THAN ON EARTH!

You watch the men leap high up ... float like clumsy fish ... and then land...

HEY DUTCH! LOOKA ME!

NEVER SEEN NUTHIN' LIKE IT!

This is Spider... small, a good mechanic, one of the convicts pardoned for the trip...

I BUSTED D' WOILD'S RECORD, DUTCH! I C'N OUTJUMP ANYBODY!

This is Dutch ... quiet, cautious, another convict...

GO BE A COWBOY, I'M GOIN' BACK TO TH' SHIP!

This is Ringo, another convict...

WHERE YA GOIN' DUTCH?

BACK TO THE SHIP! THIS PLACE GIVES ME THE CREEPS!

Scobey, a convict...

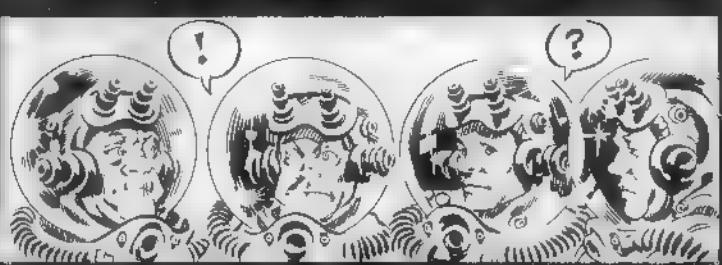
ME TOO! I'LL GO WIT' YA!

Kress, a convict...

I'M GOIN' TOO!

You get through leaping and turn to see how the others are making out... What you see is a small stream of men, all moving back to the ship...

YOU MEN! STOP!



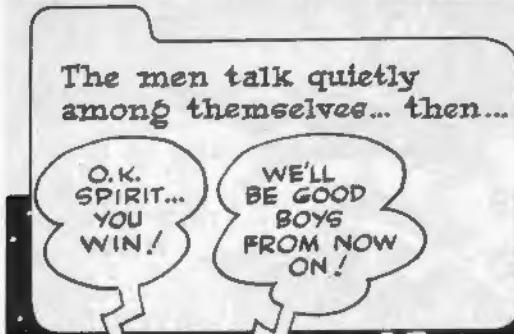


and then...

BOOM



You wait... helplessly, you watch them hover over the professor, waiting for him to make a decision...



Don't Miss an Issue!

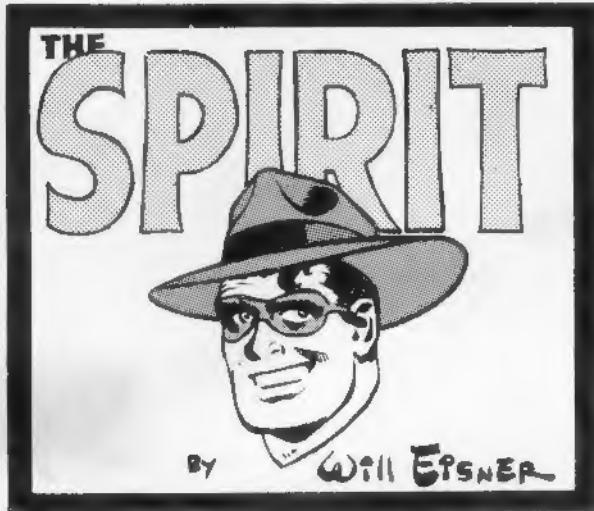
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